

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



ST. PIUS X BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL – DECEMBER 2017

PRINCIPAL'S CHRISTMAS WISHES

After a hectic first term, everyone in our community I'd imagine are looking forward to a well-earned rest! The term has truly ended on a high note with our festive services and performances over the past month. For a full week, our GP room was packed with parents and family members enthralled with the performances of over 11 classes. From acting, costumes and audio-visual

surprises, these shows were amazing to behold.

Congratulations to all the pupils involved and of course the teachers who prepared them so well. On top of that, yesterday, our Junior and Senior Carol

Services took place. Both services were perfect opportunities to show off the wealth of musical talents that we have here in Pius X BNS. With our own choir, teacher musician group, narrators and various other solo performances, this year's carol services stood out as one of the best so far. Well done to everyone on the carol service committee for all the planning, performing and

organising that went into this event which has now become a highlight of the school calendar.

I'd also like to thank everyone who contributes every day to make St. Pius X BNS the great place it is. In particular I want to acknowledge the hard work of our staff and our Board of Management (under the Chairpersonship of Ronan McMahon) who together, help

create an amazing holistic learning environment. I would also like to thank all of our parents, and in particular our school's Parents' Association for their help and innovative

support. Finally, I'd like to wish everyone in the Pius X BNS family, a healthy and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in January!

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Lorcan Coyle

INTEL MINI SCIENTIST

Intel Mini Scientist Mr. Murtagh's class partook in the recent Intel Mini Young Scientist Competition. Initially, the boys were split into groups and under the careful guidance of Mr. Smyth they came up with varying topics to research ranging from monorails to mazes for centipedes and earthworms!! Each group displayed marvellous knowledge of its chosen topic and when it came to presenting their work to judges and parents, the boys did a tremendous job. Unfortunately, only one group could advance to represent the school in the finals in Blanchardstown with the judges agreeing that the Food Waste group were the worthy winners. This group comprised of Carlo, Darragh and Barry and it was clear to see the volume of work they had put into their project. They represented the school with distinction at the finals in Blanchardstown last week and were unlucky not to place. Overall though the boys reported that it was a very worthwhile and memorable experience and one from which they really learned. Thanks again to Sinéad Lally, Michael Smyth and Helen Browne for all their help in preparing the boys.

FOOTBALL NEWS

Junior Greens had their final match of the season after Hallowe'en. They were up against St. Mary's BNS, Lucan and with both teams having won all their previous games in the league, we knew it would be a tough contest with the winner also finishing top of the League as undefeated champions. The first half was a close encounter with very little

separating the teams at half time thanks to some excellent defending from our backs. The boys came out fighting in the second half and showed great determination and composure to take control of the game. They got some superb individual and team scores and finished comprehensive winners in the end. Ending the year as

league champions with five wins out of five games was a just reward for the brilliant effort and commitment the boys showed all year. This really was a superb achievement by a great group of boys with huge potential for next year and beyond. The future of Pius football looks bright.

RUNNING CLUB

The running club had its annual day out at the Terenure College cross country run. Organised by Mr Wallace and the students of Terenure College it is a great opportunity for boys to compete in cross country racing. 8 schools were present on the day with over 800 pupils taking part from 2nd class to 6th class. St Pius X BNS had 114 boys competing this year and after a great day we took home our fair share of the silverware. Thanks again to Philip Wallace and Terenure College for organising a great event. Running club for 5th and 6th class will be back in action in the new year.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2017 SVP Food Collection. Your enormous generosity was incredible. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul expects 50,000 families to seek its help over the winter months. Christmas will be a challenging time for so many families and your support is greatly appreciated.



QUIZ TEAM

Congratulations to the 8 boys who have been selected to represent St. Pius in the Credit Union quiz regional competition in January 2018. Qualifiers are determined by age and performances in our weekly school quiz.

Junior Team: Ashen Wijayaratne (Ms. Redmond), Derry Murphy (Mr. Réamonn), Donagh Murphy (Mr. Coughlan), Aaron Dillon (Ms. Waine)

Senior Team: Gordon Tracey (Mr. Glynn), Doire Sheridan (Mr. Dillon), John Chew (Mr. Glynn) Patrick Evoy (Mr. Murtagh)

CHOIR

The boys of the choir have worked extra hard this term to prepare for the festive season. All of their efforts and dedication made our Christmas celebrations this year the most harmonious yet! New boys stepped up to the challenge of singing solos and our new members were very excited as they prepared to perform at the first carol services. Both the junior and senior carol services have undoubtedly been the high point of the festivities, making it one of the most magical days in the St Pius X BNS calendar. The boys performed a beautiful arrangement of Christmas hymns, as well as adding some modern Christmas surprises to their repertoire. Thank you to all of the boys for their hard work and dedication to the choir. A special thanks also, to all of the teachers involved with the choir. Nollaig Shona dhaoibh go léir.

DATES TO REMEMBER

School re-opens Monday 8th January at 8.45a.m.

February Mid Term Break : Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February 2018

St. Patrick's Day: Closed Monday 19th March, 2018

Easter Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 23rd March
Re-opens Monday 9th April.

Confirmation: Saturday 21st April, 2018

May Bank Holiday: School is closed Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th May

First Holy Communion: Saturday 19th May 2018

June Bank Holiday: Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th June.

Summer Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 29th June.